

The king and queen were delightful people. I had already seen the king, for when I was on my way to Africa he had come down in a battleship to Messina, and at his request I had gone aboard the battleship and had been presented to him; and I had a very genuine respect for him. More-over, I found him most companionable. There were many things in which both of us were interested, from big game hunting to history and social progress. Some time before he had written asking me to come on a shooting trip with him after ibex, and I was genuinely sorry to refuse; and when I made my formal call upon him he showed me the heads of all kinds of game animals, including for instance the very rare South Italian chamois; and he showed that he took much more than a pure sportsman's interest in them. As for his general reading, I need only mention that I found on his desk, open, a copy of Mahaffy's 'Empire of the Ptolemies' in which he was interested. I have always had a liking for the early history of the House of Savoy. Happening to say that I supposed that the fact that the House of Savoy had elected to live under Roman and not under Lombard law indicated that it was probably of native and not of invading Germanic origin, the king at once became interested and he told me many queer incidents of early Savoy history; and showed us his noteworthy collection of Savoyard coins, from the earliest to modern times. While I was President he had sent me, together with a handsome edition of Dante, a score of

volumes of the
original reports and papers of Eugene of
Savoy—one of
my favorite heroes.

The king showed that he was deeply and
intelligently
interested in every movement for social
reform, and was
not only astonishingly liberal but even radical,
sympathiz-
ing with many of the purposes and doctrines
of the So-
cialists. He took me in to see his children, who
were well
behaved and simple. When I spoke of how well
the queen
was bringing them up, he laughed and said,
yes, he wished
his son to be so trained that if necessary he
would be fit
to be the First President of the Italian
Eepublic. Later he